

V.I.P. NEWS

(Volunteers In Print)

AIDS Network of Edmonton Society
488-5742

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

1994 JULY/AUGUST

Volunteers honored at Annual General Meeting

The AIDS Network was competing with a playoff hockey game for attention, but the Annual General Meeting (AGM) was just as exciting for volunteers.

In a departure from tradition, the Network honored a group of people, rather than an individual, at its AGM on June 7, 1994. The Community Leadership Award went to ALL volunteers in Edmonton who have worked with HIV/AIDS, in recognition of the vital role they play in our work.

Edmonton Councillor Michael Phair was the guest speaker, following the formal part of the meeting. The AIDS Network Board of Directors was recognized for the hard work and dedication its members have shown over the past term.

An engraved plaque honoring award recipients was presented to seven volunteers, who accepted on behalf of all volunteers - Donald M, John B, Brian M, Kevin H, Nancy M, Shona W, and Frumie J were proud to represent the hundreds of people who regularly give of themselves so that people who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS receive the services, care, and support the AIDS Network is able to offer.

The Community Leadership Award hangs proudly in the AIDS Network boardroom, where many of the ANE volunteers spend considerable time on various committees and projects.

Councillor Phair presented the award and spoke

about the early years of the AIDS Network. Engaging, and with a sombre note remembering those who have died, Councillor Phair reflected on the remarkable growth of this agency. When ANE was formed in 1986, one of the prevailing thoughts was "this is a temporary measure.....a cure isn't far off, and surely there won't be a long term need....." The growth of the Network and related agencies, however, have proved that to be profoundly wrong.

Councillor Phair's speech was dedicated to, and in memory of Ross Armstrong, who was the first person to be diagnosed with AIDS in Edmonton. His moving speech, noting Ross's contributions to this community, reminded many of the numbers of people we have lost.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Ross's AIDS diagnosis. It was two years later that the AIDS Network was born. Our offices now proudly carry the name, *Ross Armstrong Office*.

All Edmonton volunteers who have worked with HIV/AIDS are honored this year for their kindness, their energy, and their compassion. "We could not possibly provide the services we do without a very significant volunteer component," says outgoing Board Chair, Lyle Grant. "This award highlights, in a more formal way, the gratitude felt by hundreds of people - those who are infected with HIV, as well as families and friends."

Please see AGM/pg3

HELP LINE



4 8 8 - 5 8 1 6

Inside this Issue

Celebrating Who We Are	2
AIDS Memorial Quilt	2
Candlelight Walk Committee	2
FrankenFringe Part XIII	2
AIDS Awareness Week	3
Employment Opportunity	3
Education Committee Needs Volunteers	3
Walk Registration	5

AIDS Memorial Quilt

The AIDS Quilt Project is a beautiful tribute to our friends and loved ones who have been stolen by this terrible disease. It also puts very human faces to a disease for those people living in our communities who may not yet have had personal contact. Each panel of the quilt is a three foot by six foot personalized memorial of one person, created by friends and family who wish to remember them.

If you are interested in this project - in creating a panel for someone - we are interested in you. In the true spirit of quilting, we would like people to get together and share materials, tools, and space and get together on a somewhat regular basis to tackle the project. The finished panels will be displayed during AIDS Awareness Week.

If you or any of your friends and family are interested in participating in this project, give Sonja, AAW coordinator at 488-5742 we'll get the show on the road!

As well, anyone who has a completed panel tucked away somewhere, we'd like to hear from you too! Give us a call. Share the love and the memories!

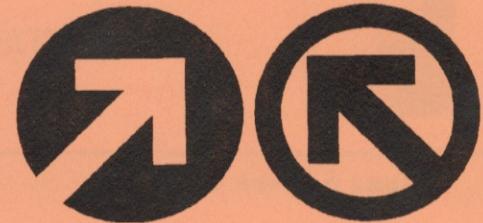
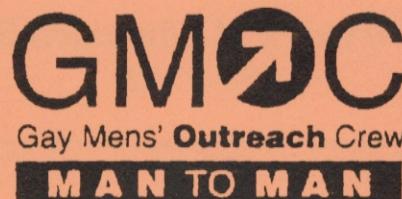
Sonja T.

Candlelight Walk Committee Needed

Each year, a special candlelight walk is held during AIDS Awareness Week held in October. It is a time for remembrance - a time for showing support to people who are affected by HIV or AIDS.

If you would like to help plan the Candlelight Walk, please call Sonja at 488-5742.

CELEBRATING WHO WE ARE



Call: 988-3671

This summer, the GMOC Project has decided to create a campaign with a slightly different focus from our usual safer sex message. We wanted to focus on the identity and self esteem within the various gay communities in Edmonton.

In this climate of intolerance and negative homophobic messages, it may be difficult for a gay man or lesbian to love who and what they are and take pride in it.

This negativity can greatly affect a person's self image, self esteem, and in turn, affect how they care for themselves and others. Specifically, a person who has low or no self esteem and a negative attitude about being gay may be less likely to practice safer sex.

Our message for the summer is simple and concise:

"CELEBRATING WHO WE ARE"

Celebrating our gay and lesbian friends, lovers, parents, and children for who they are. Celebrating queer identity, culture, uniqueness, interests, and normalcy for what they are. Taking pride in all of these qualities and celebrating, rejoicing, and cherishing our feelings and emotions.

Our plan is to take our slogan across Edmonton with hundreds of posters, banners, and handouts, each with a different picture or image depicting a facet of our collective community. Not only do we want gays and lesbians to get this message, but also our families, our friends and even those who don't understand us.

So take time to celebrate who you are!

FrankenFringe Part XIII

is fast approaching, and once again, the AIDS Network will be present, sending out our prevention message to the masses.

Outgoing volunteers will be needed for shifts of 3 hours over the 10-day event - August 12th through to the 21st.

If you are interested, contact our Fringe Coordinator Mark Bilko or volunteer coordinator Heather Huet at 488-5742.

Break the silence • Talk it up • Ask Questions

Creating healthy attitudes about youth and sexuality AIDS Awareness Week 1994 • October 3rd - 9th

- Planning is already underway and creative input is being sought. If you would like to help in planning the week by volunteering your time or ideas, Sonja (AIDS Awareness Week Coordinator) would love to hear from you.

This year's theme is "Creating healthy attitudes about youth and sexuality" - the target is youth. Lots of exciting events are being planned - plan to be a part of it!

Call for details about specific projects and decide which ones you would like to contribute to.

Memorial Service Volunteers Needed

If you have an interest in music, poetry, and other writings, and/or have computer skills to format a memorial service program, please contact Val Gervais in Support Services at 488-5742

Education Committee Needs Volunteers

We are looking for 3 to 4 new members for September '94. If you have an interest or experience in adult education, HIV issues, policy or community development, call Heather H. at 488-5742.

New Board Members

Sharon Marcus	Gil Charest
Ron Rowswell	Elizabeth Regan *
Dr. Stan Houston	Edward Sandberg *
Bob Bowyer	Dennis Baker *
Mike Burch	Dr. Karen Grimsrud *

* new board members

We say farewell and **thank you!** to the following board members:

Lyle Grant
Lynne Falconer
Murray Billett
Jim Sheremeta



AGM, continued from page 1

Past Community Leadership Award recipients include: Jim Dinning (former Minister, Alberta Community and Occupational Health), Dr. Barbara Romanowski, Wayne Hellard, Michael Phair, Dana King, Ken Ward, Sherry Lencucha, and Deborah Norris. The latter two shared last year's honors and continue their work with the Alberta Society of Positive Women. The AIDS Network - its staff, board, clients, and supporters - salute not only the individuals named here, but **ALL VOLUNTEERS** - our Very Important People in 'VIP'!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Social Worker - Support Services

The AIDS Network of Edmonton Society is seeking a person to fill this position commencing mid-August 1994. The person we are looking for is:

- a social worker (BSW) with a number of years counselling experience including intake and crisis intervention. (Equivalency combination of degree and experience will be considered);
- very familiar with and able to relate to the gay male community;
- knowledgeable about the issues of HIV / AIDS;
- experienced working with clients from diverse backgrounds;
- experienced with relationship issues, substance abuse, and/or family dynamics;
- experienced in group work (self-help support groups);
- self motivated, organized and a team player;

Resumes will be accepted until July 15th, 1994.

Mail resumes to:

Executive Director
201-11456 Jasper Ave
Edmonton AB T5K 0M1
or faxed to (403) 488-3735

Anger & Rage

I bring my anger present,
my rage at this virus

So,
the feelings won't be lost
and stored inside this
healthy body of mine.

So,
the vigorous laugh of this
beautiful man won't be forgotten

I bring my anger and my rage
present.

So,

I won't be lost in the sadness,
and tears of wasted futures
and lost opportunities.

I bring my anger and my rage
present.

So,

I can release the pain of many
losses that seem like one

I bring my anger and my rage
present.

So,

I can create something new and
giving.

Val Gervais

The staff of Support Services would like to
thank the many volunteers who have helped
make it easier for those who have died of AIDS
and to those who have also helped ease some of
the grief for their families.

Good Luck Nick!

Nick is departing to participate in academic
studies. A party will be held for him in the early
evening of July 13th. If any volunteers wish to
attend, please call the receptionist to find out
details at 488-5742

The past month has been one of the most challenging in my two years working with the ANE. HIV affects our lives in profound ways as we cope with many losses. I submit two writings for your reflection.....Val

For Leonard

My fear holds me close.
It surrounds me, shields me,
It is the double sided mask of my denial.

I have felt the preparation.
The intuitive tumbling that says
prepare for what is yet to come.

I have felt the darkness at my shoulder.
The presence of the elders whisperings.
The hands outstretched to hold, guide,
and carry a new spirit.

I think of you dear man,
what knowledge you have brought to this earth.

I think of the way your body now confines,
binds your spirit.
My prayer for you is to be set free,
to soar with the eagles,
and create new possibilities in your new form

Val Gervais

In Memoriam

Karen B.

Steve B.

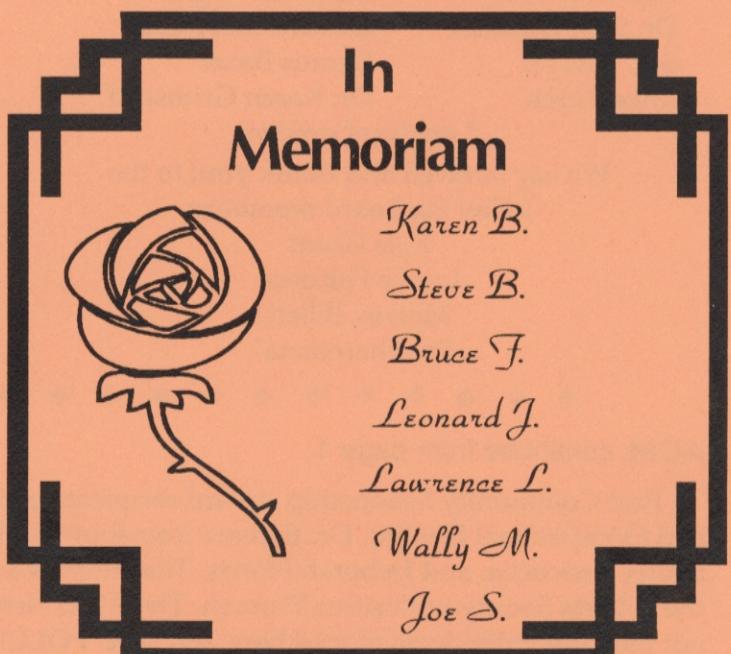
Bruce J.

Leonard J.

Lawrence L.

Wally M.

Joe S.



The 1994 AIDS Walk For
Life partner agencies
gratefully acknowledge

ROBERT FALCONER

for his kind contribution of time and talent in designing the 1994 AIDS Walk For Life logo. (He also created the 1992 logo.) Robert has been an integral part of the AIDS Walk since it began in 1992. We salute his dedication and his kindness - thank you, Robert, for your ongoing support.

WELCOME COLIN!

The five "Walk partner" agencies are very pleased to welcome back Colin Simpson as Walk Coordinator. Colin was part of the first Walk in 1992. "It is indeed a thrill to again be part of it," he says. "My hope is that we'll recruit between 1500 and 2,000 walkers this year to help raise much-needed funds for preventive education and support services." Colin adds that people who walk, volunteer or pledge money to the event do so because they believe in the work of the five partner agencies - "every step of the way."

DANCE!

Remember - The AIDS Dance For Life is a new AIDS WALK 'partner event' ... It's a day of dance classes being held Saturday, October 1, 1994 at Grant MacEwan Community College (Jasper Place Campus) and at Arthur Murray Dance Studio. Participants raise at least \$50 in pledges and then take the class(es) of their choice from professionals. There is something for everyone, and everyone is welcome. Just call Dance For Life coordinator **Mary Stevenson at 487-4587** to register. There is no registration fee, but participants must raise a minimum of \$50 per class in pledges. Dance studios and their students, dance enthusiasts, post secondary students and fitness buffs are all getting involved - Dance For Life is not only a wonderful opportunity to involve Edmonton's dance community, it promises to add significantly to the 1994 fund raising efforts for AIDS.

- BALLET •
- COUNTRY •
- JAZZ •
- TAP •
- LATIN •
- BALLROOM •
- MODERN •

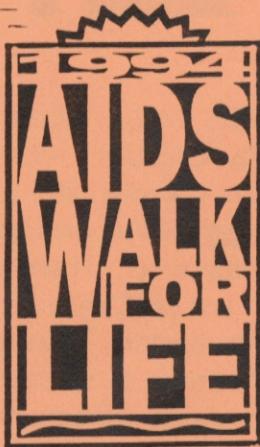
MODIGLIANI & KMS CUTATHON RAISES \$600+

It was a beautiful day, which kept some people outdoors, but a recent cut-a-thon at West Edmonton Mall still saw plenty of scizzor action! Sincere thanks to staff and volunteers who helped raise over \$600 for the AIDS Dance For Life on May 29/94. KMS provided the products, Modigliani Hair provided the stylists and many shoppers left with fabulous hair cuts at a very reasonable price (\$20). Thank you!

THANK YOU WILLIE WONG and KAMENA GALLERY

The AIDS Network of Edmonton Society gratefully acknowledges Willie Wong and the Kamen Gallery (7510 - 82 Ave. Edmonton) for 'P.S. I LOVE YOU' - the title of a limited edition print now available at the AIDS Network and at Kamen Gallery. Willie, along with his family and friends, officially launched this fund raising project at a reception on May 26, 1994. The prints are \$150 each (unframed); only 975 are being sold. This full color work is a beautiful example of Willie's artistry and his generosity. Proceeds assist the AIDS Network in providing preventive education as well as care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS. Thank you very much to Willie and to the wonderful people at Kamen. You can purchase your print either at the AIDS Network (11456 Jasper Ave. ph: 488-5742) or at Kamen Gallery. Kamen is offering a special price on framing these prints. Call Willie at 944-9497 for details.

REGISTER TODAY - IT'S FREE - AND IT'S EASY



Talking Yellow Pages phone-in
registration effective July 8/94.
Dial 493-9000, then the code: 9255

AIDS WALK FOR LIFE - Oct. 2/94

Help set the pace: As a member or supporter of one or more of the five participating agencies, you are asked to register early for the 1994 AIDS Walk - and to recruit your family and friends. Just phone, fax or mail us your information and you will receive your walker kit as soon as they are ready.

It costs you NOTHING: For the first time in its three-year history, there is no registration fee for the AIDS Walk For Life. In response to your suggestions (walker evaluation forms from past years), the fee is eliminated and your T-shirt purchase (\$16) is optional.

A T-shirt with PIZZAZZ: You asked for it, and that's what the 1994 edition delivers! Look for a bold, colorful new design when you come to the AIDS Network, Fringe Festival or various locations around town. The T-shirt shirt sales are a vital fund raising component to the Walk. They're available now at ANE.

KEENERS welcome: If you'd like to get started right away on pledge collection, just register at the AIDS Network and get your earlybird pledge sheet. We'll assign you a registration number and you can start that much earlier.

New PRIZE SYSTEM encourages pledges: The vast majority of past walkers tell us their reasons for participating have little or nothing to do with prizes. There will be many, many donated prizes for walkers to earn and win, including a trip for two anywhere in the continental USA from AMA Travel and Northwest Airlines. For each \$100 raised in pledges, the walker receives one entry into the prize drum. i.e. If you raise \$300, you have three chances to win; \$500 gives you five chances, etc. Expect between 100 and 200 'door prizes' and a 'level prize' for every registered walker.

AIDS WALK FOR LIFE T-SHIRTS -

\$16 (\$20 by phone) Sizes: big and bigger
Call the AIDS Walk For Life Hotline 488-5742

REGISTER ME TODAY!...to walk and raise money to
fight AIDS and to support people living with HIV/AIDS.
 Please mail my walker kit to:

YES

NAME(Ms/Mrs/Mr):

ADDRESS:

CITY: _____

PHONE: Days _____

Evenings _____

FAX: _____

COMPANY/SCHOOL/TEAM NAME (if any): _____

I can't come to the Walk. Here is my tax deductible contribution of \$ _____. (Please make cheque payable to Walk For Life)
 I will pick up my walker kit in person at the Walk For Life office, #201 11456 Jasper Ave, phone 488-5742
No fee for early registration...however, Late Registration Fee (after Sept.23) is \$10.